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WORK STARTS ON FIRST A-POWER PLANT

70 Megawatt Output: Ready in 1960

Work has begun on East Germany's first atomic power station, it was announced in Berlin on October 7th. The power station, with an output of 70 megawatts, will begin operation in 1960, according to present plans.

The station will be built in a thinly-inhabited area north of Berlin, and all precautions are being taken to see that there is not the slightest risk of contamination from the station. A special village, six miles from the power station, will house the 200 families of the scientists and power-station attendants. The station will be surrounded by a two-mile security zone, where no-one will be allowed to live, and where no agriculture will be carried on.

It was also announced early in October that Democratic Germany's first atomic reactor, situated at the nuclear research centre near Dresden, will begin operations at the end of this year.

PIECK PRESIDENT AGAIN

Term of Office Extended Four Years

Wilhelm Pieck, 81-year-old socialist veteran, will continue to occupy the post of President of the German Democratic Republic for the next four years. This was decided unanimously on October 7th at a joint session of the upper and lower houses of parliament of the German Democratic Republic.

Wilhelm Pieck, a cabinet maker by trade, who has been active in working class politics since 1895, when he first joined the Social Democratic Party, was elected as first President of the Democratic Republic on October 11th 1949. He was re-elected on October 7th 1954.

At the joint session of the two houses of parliament, Dr. Johannes Dieckmann, Chairman of the People's Chamber, stated that all parties represented in parliament had decided that it was unnecessary to hold a new election, and that it would be sufficient to pass a resolution prolonging for a further four years the term of office of the president.

President Pieck, who has recently been in poor health, did not attend the session. Dr. Dieckmann announced however that his health had recently improved.

A YEAR OF PROGRESS

Prime Minister Grotewohl Reports

Democratic Germany has taken further steps forward in the past year, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl stated in a speech on October 6th on the occasion of the 8th birthday of the German Democratic Republic. He stated:

"A year full of work lies behind us. Our Republic has become stronger, more stable and more productive. The lives of our working people are not yet filled with luxury, but thanks to their great efforts life has become in many respects finer, richer and more cultured. The big and complicated tasks connected with our second Five Year Plan are nearer solution."

Here are some of the main points from Prime Minister Grotewohl's summary:

Industrial progress

Productivity increased by five percent during the first half of 1957, and gross industrial production by eight percent: this increase in production is particularly noteworthy, since in the same period 90 % of all industrial workers switched over from the 48-hour to the 45-hour week. Main bottleneck in the industrial field is in the production of electricity, and great efforts will have to be made to wrest every kilowatt of electricity from the power plants.

Great progress has been made in the past year in the use of radio-active isotypes in industry, and all preparations have been made to extend their use still further.

Housing

In the first half of 1957, 58% more houses were completed than in the same period of the previous year. Industrialised building methods are being more and more widely used. The capacity of the building material industry will now have to be expanded to keep up with the building rate.

De-Centralisation

Industrial development has been satisfactory: now we must deal seriously with the urgently needed reorganisation of the control of industry. The aim must be to transfer tasks which have hitherto been centralised in the industrial ministries into the hands of the "associations of nationally-owned factories", and into the hands of the relevant local industries. This will simplify the control of the economy, and will make it possible to draw the workers more intimately into the control of state and economy.

Agriculture

Despite unfavourable weather, agricultural production has been increased in the main branches compared to last year. Meat production in the first half of 1957 was 10 % up on the 1956 figure. Since January this year 184 new agricultural production cooperatives have been founded. The superiority of the production cooperative over the production methods of individual farmers is shown by the fact that the marketable production of the cooperatives has increased by 12 % over last year, while the production of individual farmers has increased by only one percent.

Foreign Trade

At the end of August this year, the total turnover in foreign trade lay 23.8 % higher than on the same date in 1956. This shows our growing economic strength and the increase in international esteem for the German Democratic Republic.

Foreign Policy

The friendship of the German Democratic Republic with all socialist countries has been strengthened. We reached agreement with all these states in our estimate of the international situation, and signed with them declarations on the further development of our fraternal relations. Relations between the German Democratic Republic and Yugoslavia have also improved further. There has been favourable development in our relations with the anti-imperialist states, particularly Egypt, India and Syria. We have exchanged visits of leading government representatives of these states, and increased mutual understanding of our problems.

The principles of our foreign policy are national independence, disarmament, the banning of all weapons of mass extermination, collective security, peaceful coexistence and friendship with all peace-loving peoples. We give our support to all proposals made by the Soviet Union in this direction, since they serve peace, and accord with the wishes of the peoples.

German Unity

We are by no means pleased with the results of the general elections to the West German parliament. Those forces have remained in power which wish to lead West Germany down the road to war.

The question has been posed as to how the struggle should continue. We give our answer: The German people must continue to struggle against the militarists, against the fascists, and against the preparation of atomic warfare on German soil. German imperialism and militarism remain the main obstacle to German unity.

Savings Up in East Germany

Private savings in East Germany have reached an all time high, it was officially announced on October 2nd. Savings per family today average 1210 marks — nearly 200 pounds sterling at the official exchange rate — compared with 409 marks per family in 1953.

Reasons for the great increase in savings were stated to be increased all round wage rates, and the fact that prices in the German Democratic Republic are stable, with a falling tendency, so that savings are not gradually devalued as in most capitalist countries.

WHEN WILL BRITAIN KEEP THIS PLEDGE?

"We will do all in our power to ensure they answer for their crimes" – British Government Statement 1944

1944
S. S. General Reinefarth, Butcher of Warsaw

1957
Burgomaster Reinefarth, Mayor in West Germany

When will the British Government redeem its pledge, made thirteen years ago, that the man shown in the pictures on this page would be brought to justice.

The man is Heinz Reinefarth, the butcher of Warsaw. In the picture on the left you see him as one of Hitler's generals in full war panoply: SS General of Police Heinz Reinefarth, decorated by Hitler with the Laurel Wreath to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross for his action in destroying Warsaw in 1944.

In the picture on the right you see him as he is today: mayor of the seaside community of Sylt in West Germany.

In 1944 the British Government made a specific promise that General Reinefarth would be punished for his crimes. Here is the evidence: On September 9th 1944 the Foreign Office in London issued the following official statement:

"Information has reached the British Government of the tragic sufferings and hardships to which the civilian population of Warsaw has been exposed in the course of the fighting in the Polish capital. Civilian men, women and children, the wounded and infirm, as well as soldiers of the Polish Home Army have been the victims of German barbarity. Defenceless persons have been driven in front of German tanks as protection against the Polish forces. In their declaration of August 30th the British Government warned the Germans against violation of the laws and customs of war in their treatment of members of the Polish Home Army. They feel bound to issue a similar warning in regard to those German crimes against civilians. **They will do all in their power to ensure that those responsible, whoever they may be, are made to answer for their crimes."**

On September 11th 1944 the Polish Telegraph Agency in London reported that a special list of German war criminals in Warsaw had been received in London from the Polish command in Warsaw. The list included the name of General Reinefarth.

Further confirmation of the role of SS General Reinefarth in Warsaw is given by a nazi command teletype message discovered in SS archives in Berlin. The message, dated August 4th 1944, states: "AOK 9 reports at 2200 hours on the SS forces for suppression of rising in Warsaw: following units have arrived —

17,000 men of SS unit 'Rona' (Kaminski)

1 battalion SS-Regt. Dirlewanger

1 battalion SS and Wehrmacht from Posen.

Overall command of these forces lies in hands of SS General of Police Heinz Reinefarth."

And here is some more evidence. In November 1945, after the end of the war, the German army sergeant Willi Fiedler, who today lives in Munich, West Germany, was interrogated in a British P.O.W. camp in Brussels by British officers. This is part of what Sergeant Fiedler had to say:

"I was a soldier in a supply unit in Warsaw, working in a leather factory ... Polish civilians were brought into the factory grounds ... In the courtyard I saw about 150 or 200 Polish civilians, men, children and women. I saw how the Polish civilians were laid on the piles with their faces down, some were even dragged by the hair, and they were then shot in the back of the neck by an SS man. The bodies were not taken away ... the next party had to clamber upon the bodies, or were dragged up, and then they were also shot. I saw about nine or ten piles of corpses built up like this. Women with children at the breast were shot together ... I don't

know the names of the SS men. These SS men belonged to the Reinefarth fighting group. I know this from an SS man who told me this".

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What happened after the war? The Polish Government naturally wanted to try Reinefarth for his war crimes. They applied for his extradiction from the British Zone of Germany where he was then living. The answer came in the form of a letter signed by a British major named Buchanan on July 24th 1950. The letter stated that for "security reasons" Reinefarth would not be handed over.

One year after this disgraceful letter had been dispatched, Herr Reinefarth was elected by the votes of West German Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union to be mayor of Sylt, a position which he has enjoyed ever since.

Thirteen years ago, in September 1944, the British Government pledged itself "to do all in its power" to ensure that he and is accomplices were made to answer for their crimes.

It is high time that this promise was kept.

Reinefarth Case on Film

A short documentary film on the case of war criminal Reinefarth has been made by DEFA, the East German film company. The film, made by Annelie and Andrew Thorndike, talented producers of the film "The German Story", is also being prepared in an English-language version. It is one of a series of short documentaries entitled "The Archives Testify" showing, with a wealth of documentary film material, what top nazis and war criminals were doing during the Hitler period and what they are doing today in West Germany.

"BAN A-BOMBS IN CENTRAL EUROPE"

— New Polish Proposal

Production and stockpiling of all nuclear weapons should be banned in both German states, Poland's Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki proposed at the United Nations on October 2nd. If the two German states agreed to this step, Poland would be prepared to take the same action, Mr Rapacki declared. Czech Foreign Minister Vaclav David said that his country was prepared to take a similar move.

The proposal that both German states should renounce A-weapons as a step to the reduction of European tension was first made by East German Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl in July this year. The new Polish proposal received the full support of the Government of the German Democratic Republic. Foreign Minister Lothar Bolz telegraphed the United Nations on October 5th, announcing his government's support for the new proposal, and expressing readiness to negotiate on the subject with the West German Government. The telegram, addressed to Sir Leslie Knox Munro, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, requested him to inform all members of the United Nations of this fact.

The Polish plan also received a warm welcome in some important West German circles. The West German Social Democratic Party officially greeted the Polish initiative which was described as being "of decisive importance." "This proposal could give new life to the drive for disarmament" the official Social Democratic Press Service stated.

The proposal was also welcomed by the German Party, right-wing partner in Chancellor Adenauer's coalition government. Party Chairman Heinrich Hellwege described the Polish step as "an exciting proposition" which could well lead to an international agreement.

Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union greeted the Polish plan coolly, however, stating that this matter was not something which could be settled by Germans and Poles, but must be arranged by the United Nations.

Addressing the United Nations, the Polish Foreign Minister stated:

"In the interest of Poland's security, and after consultation with the other members of the Warsaw Pact, the Polish Government declares that should the two German states express their consent to put into effect the prohibition of production and stockpiling of atomic and thermonuclear weapons on their territories, the Polish People's Republic is prepared simultaneously to take the same action on her own territory."

WEST GERMAN ATOM MEN REITERATE WARNING

Eighteen top West German physicists have reiterated their warning against the danger of atomic weapons, and their determination to do no work in the military field.

The West German physicists, including Professor Otto Hahn, first man to split the atom, originally announced on April 12th this year that they would refuse all work on atomic weapons, and stated that they were strongly opposed to the arming of the West German Wehrmacht with nuclear weapons.

On October 1st the same eighteen professors issued the following statement:

"In the past few months a number of replies have been published to the declaration on the dangers of atomic armament which we issued on April 12th of this year. During the election period we thought it right not to give an answer to these replies. Today we declare that we all hold fast to the convictions which we originally expressed, without any limitations. We shall give our answer, individually or collectively, at another time to various concrete arguments contained in the replies."

Housing Speed-Up in Berlin

Twenty four thousand new apartments will be built in East Berlin in the next three years, to help end the housing shortage, the East Berlin city council decided on October 2nd.

Life on the Farm – Eleven Years Later

By Wilfred Burchett

In January 1946, together with some other British journalists, I visited a small village near Grossenhain, in Saxony to see what was happening with land reform. Schloss Seusslitz had been the estate of a Saxon prince and then of a wealthy textile manufacturer who had fled to the west. The castle had been taken over a few months prior to our visit and turned into a home for elderly people. The land had been divided up among former landless or land poor peasants, including a number of "new settlers" who had come from the lands east of the Oder-Neisse.

It was a miserable winter. The land was deep under snow and the peasants were cold, hungry and gloomy. The gloomiest were the newcomers. They had all been given twelve acres of arable land plus some forest land — each family was to have a horse, a cow and a pig or sheep to start off with, but in practice there was not enough livestock to go around. An official from the local administration who accompanied us was harassed by the peasants demanding when they would get some animals and implements.

"What's the good of land", said one bitter-faced peasant from Silesia, "When we haven't even got ploughs? Where are we going to get seed and fertiliser?"

Six months later, at the time of a referendum in Saxony to decide the ownership of various industries taken over from their former Nazi owners, I visited Schloss Seusslitz again. The snow-covered fields of January were now covered with crops of ripening grain and the green tops of young potatoes. I sought out the peasant from Silesia. Pointing to the crops, I commented by way of greeting, that it seemed they had got seed and fertiliser in time after all.

"But what's the good of a good crop if you can't harvest it?" he replied. "In a week's time we should be harvesting and we haven't got an implement in the place." The same official assured him that harvesters would be available in time. I asked about a cow, and he grudgingly admitted that he had got a cow. His wife sharply reminded him — and the official — that the cow was not as good as the one they had left behind in Silesia.

In September 1957, eleven years later, I visited Schloss Seusslitz again. And again I sought out August Brettschneider from Silesia. He was just going out to the fields. I hardly recognised him. Fat, ruddy, cheerful and only slightly greyer. I could hardly believe him when he told me the two sleek restless horses in his wagon were the same skinny nags which had hauled him and his family from Silesia. A pinch-faced lad of about twelve when I first met his father was alongside him in the wagon, now a fine sturdy peasant with a three year-old son wedged in between his legs, holding the reins.

When I asked how things were going, Brettschneider replied "Prima" — which is very unusual for a peasant anywhere in the world. And his face was wreathed in smiles.

"This year's crop is a bit light", he went on. "But last year was good. I've now got ten pigs fattening, sixty hens and thirty geese." I asked him if he ever thought of going back to Silesia.

"For the first few years, when it was so hard here, I did", he replied. "But this is our home now. We're just as much at home here as back in Silesia. Why would I want to leave what we've built up here?"

Brettschneider explained that he worked with three other families in an "Arbeitsgemeinschaft" (working group), which meant that from sowing till harvest time the four families pooled their labour power and worked together. When one had mentioned the word "cooperative" eleven years ago, a look of suspicion or even fear had come into the faces of the Seusslitz peasants. But now the old man talked about this first step which had been taken towards cooperative work as the most natural thing in the world.

"It means we get the best out of our labour power and out of the machines" he said. The sixteen new settlers were organised in four such "Arbeitsgemeinschaften".

Statistics in the burgermeister's office showed that Brettschneider was one of the most punctual in his deliveries of grain and meat. His year's quota of meat had been set at 620 kilogrammes, paid for at the rate of 1.50 marks per kilo. It was only the beginning of September, but he had already delivered 550 kilos. In addition he had sold 627 kilos on the free market at the rate of 5 marks per kilo, so it was clear he was doing well.

I was specially interested in talking to a Silesian peasant who had been resettled, because only a few days previously some leaflets had been thrust into my hands in West Berlin, including one issued by the "Association of Silesians Faithful to their Homeland", on whose coat of arms the Nazi swastika has centre place. The leaflets are full of such sentiments as "We shall ride against the East" and "Great Germany will awake and we shall retrieve our lands in the East with fire and sword, as our fathers once wrested them from Slav barbarians."

The fascist revenge-seeking sentiments of the leaflets are the product of a deliberate policy in West Germany of not settling the expellees from the East but of keeping them in a state of discontent as future eager cannon fodder for a war of reconquest.

But Schloss Seusslitz was not the place to study modern agricultural developments in the DDR. For that I visited the "Peace" cooperative in Schoenemarkt about sixty miles from Berlin in Potsdam district. The co-op had started in December 1952 with nine members and one hundred acres of land. It was a Type 1 co-op in which the land was communally worked but each member kept his own animals. Two months later membership rose to 44 with a total of 750 acres, when a group of former agricultural workers who had received land during land reform decided to join. In May 1953, the members decided to move the co-op up to Type III in which land, animals and implements were pooled. At that time they had 106 cows, including 55 milch cows, 44 sheep and 90 pigs.

Within five years, the "Peace" co-op has grown to 103 members, with over 1,200 acres, 286 head of cattle, including 160 milch cows, 647 pigs, 250 sheep, 1,800 poultry and 104 bee-hives. The only village inhabitants

outside the co-op were eleven rich peasants with an average of about 75 acres each. Two of them were negotiating to enter the co-op as they saw the level of income of what would normally be poor peasants creep up and overtake their own.

I spoke with the chief milker Fahnich. He had formerly worked for a wealthy farmer as milker, starting at 12 marks a month and working his way up to the maximum of 100 marks; his income from the co-op for 1956 was 14,300 marks or a monthly average of about 1,200 marks. His wife — also a co-op member — earned just over 5,000 marks in 1956. Fahnich was one of the four co-op members who had bought a new car in 1956, a smart little IFA 9. Amost every other family had bought at least one motor-bike during the past couple of years.

"I could never have dreamed of such things in the old days", Fahnich said. "Milking was one of the worst-paid jobs. And you could never get ahead. Only the co-op gave us a chance to lead a proper life." Under Fahnich's direction, the milk yield per cow had gradually crept up from 1,616 litres in a year in 1953 to 3,747 litres last year and is still going up.

Paul Bergmann, a huge jovial former refugee from East Prussia, was shovelling green maize to some cows when I met him. After he left East Prussia twelve years previously he had worked for a farmer in Schoenemarkt for 130 marks a month. Then he decided to join the co-op. He totted up his average monthly income from the co-op and it came to well over 800 marks, plus meat, butter, milk and vegetables from his individual plot of 1¼ acres. His daughter was studying foreign languages in the Workers' and Peasants' Faculty of the Humboldt University and his son works in the co-op. He was very satisfied with his new life and the co-op in particular.

Members' incomes had gone up from 13.13 marks per working unit in 1953 to 16.37 marks in 1956 and there were prospects for a further increase this year. Not all members had land; some lived entirely off the work units. Those with land were paid rent on the basis of 40 marks per acre of land they had contributed to the co-op. If they had no land and wanted it, they were automatically credited with 15 acres from a reserve fund when they were accepted as members.

The "Peace" co-operative cannot be regarded as typical. It is one of the most advanced co-ops in the Republic, but it is a glimpse into the future of what is possible. Landless labourers of a few years ago, on the basis of communal work and good organisation, are living on a scale possible only for middle farmers in the old days.

SCHOOL GETS BETTER

By Joan Becker

Reading Mary Wolfard's account of her little daughter's first day at school (GERMAN REPORT, September 27th) reminded me of the various school beginners' days I have attended here.

The first was in 1949. A little girl who was staying with us in Halle while her mother looked for a home in bombed-out Berlin started school — in a disused barracks — while she was with us.

Eva had one of those cardboard cornets, too, but there was nothing very exciting in it; a pressed cardboard satchel, slate and slate pencils and a thin little reader and sum book. But still, she survived these early difficulties and started high school this September.

The next beginners' day I attended was in 1952, when my own little daughter started school. Josephine got one of the first real leather satchels — which she is still using. There were oranges and a few chocolates in her "Schultuete", and she had some very nice, well-printed school books, pencils and exercise books — all provided free of cost. But the big difficulty was still accomodation. She started off in an old school in Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg where two schools had to be taught in shifts. The after-school club was one which still had to serve several schools and could not possibly accomodate all the children whose parents wanted to send them there.

My son Bernard started a year later in a brand new, not yet finished school which has since become one of the finest of the new Berlin primary schools, with dining-room, gymnasium, assembly hall, laboratories, a nice garden, after-school club and weekly children's home all in one big, two-storeyed E-shaped block with almost all class-rooms facing the sun.

This year I went to beginners' day as a member of the Parents' Comittee in the central Berlin school which my two have attended for the last three years. Here nearly eighty new pupils (divided into two classes) got pretty much the same welcome as Mary Wolfard describes, and in addition the Pioneer group in Josephine's class sang for them and then took them over to the after-school club for their cocoa and cakes while our headmaster spoke a few words to parents, introduced the two teachers who will be in charge of their children, if possible for the next three or even four years, and for as many lessons as possible. He also introduced me and the chairman of the Parents' Committee, since great efforts are made in all our schools to keep parents and teachers in contact.

Children starting school this year are the first of those who will all stay at school for ten years, since it is planned to have the necessary accomodation and teachers for general middle school education available by 1965.

This year's books for beginners are as nice as ever, but not much different from those my two used. But it isn't only beginners who get new books. Nearly thirteen and a half million new textbooks — 2,000 different titles — were issued to the general and trade schools this September, free of charge in Berlin, but not yet throughout the Republic.

Josephine and Bernard, who are now in their 6th and 5th school years, got everything new too, and in revised editions many of which are a very definite improvement on the earlier ones. They look so much more attractive, too, with their cheerful coloured covers replacing the former grey ones.

One of the complaints which teachers, parents and children had in the past was that textbooks — especially history and language textbooks — were simply too solid and written in a style which was almost unreadable. Children got into the habit of learning whole chunks by heart simply to pass their tests, so that when they got to high school or even to the university, they had difficulty in reasoning things out for themselves.

But this state of affairs has improved very much. The only educational

publishing house for general and trade school textbooks is the nationally owned "Volk und Wissen" publishing house; all schools use their books, so it is very important that they should be good. The publishers have had to build up their contacts with the eductional authorities and with specialists in all school subjects, and their books have improved along with improvements in teaching methods.

The beginners' biology textbook — "About Life" — for ten and eleven year-olds, has a hundred and forty-one illustrations and 8 pages of coloured plates of birds, common garden and wild flowers, fruits and seeds (probably not enough for town children, though, who hardly know the difference between barley and wheat). There are chapters on autumn in the garden, fruit harvest, trees and shrubs, the hedgerow, woods and birds during the four seasons and so on. The last chapter was written by a well-known woman doctor; it is called "Let's keep healthy" and has simple instructions about cleanliness, regularity, good posture and morning exercises.

Josephine, who is nearly twelve, has started physics this year and she also has a very nicely planned textbook with plenty of diagrams, photographs and practical illustrations; there are chapters on solids, liquids and gases, conduction, convection and radiation, followed by practical sections on various kinds of household heating, hints on avoiding outbreaks of fire etc. The last, very interesting chapter is about weather.

There are literally hundreds of excellent photographs, maps and diagrams in Bernard's new 5th year geography of Germany; pictures of cities, mountains and lakes, farming and coast landscapes. The text is reduced to a minimum, but it gives an excellent over-all picture of the physical and economic geography of Germany, with quite brief mention of the political division of the country.

This seems to me a much better way to give children a feeling of love for their homeland than oft-repeated phrases about patriotism and so on in the text; almost all East German children — this year over 80 per cent — are able to go away for the summer holidays, and all of them will find a familiar picture of some place in the mountains, on the lakes or seashore which they have visited. Bernard was delighted to find a full-page coloured picture of the little Baltic fishing village where we have spent our summer holiday for several years, and Josephine found one of a Harz mountain resort where she once spent three weeks' convalescent holiday through the social insurance service.

Josephine's history book is especially interesting; it is called "Peasants, Burghers and Feudal Lords" and is a history of the Germans from the 10th century to the end of the Thirty Years' War with many illustrations and main emphasis on what happened to ordinary people.

Both the 5th and 6th year literature readers are a big improvement on the earlier ones, but I think they could well include more extracts from contemporary literature and somewhat less from the classics, considering the children's age.

Primary schools have also started giving three hours a week of English or French in the 7th and 8th classes this year. Our school has decided on English, partly because an English teacher was already on the staff; there will be fewer French classes for some time to come, since we have very few French teachers.

This second language is compulsory only for 7th and 8th year pupils in the comparatively few special classes where Russian has been taught since the third year, and voluntary for other classes. The number of hours' Russian has been reduced in the special classes to make room for the English lessons without over-burdening the children, and in other classes English lessons are given in the afternoon.

The textbook seems to me quite good — much better than the Russian textbooks, which are too complicated and do not encourage children to get into the habit of speaking the language. The first part of the English book is entirely in English, with cheerful little illustrations. Grammar and exercises are also all in English except for explanatory titles; but one or two mistakes in the English have crept in and I should think the pages of international phonetics are superfluous, since most teachers cannot use them.

There will soon be some tape recordings available for use in the schools; some of these were made by the English and French teachers who were here this August at a teachers' summer school in Weimar. I only hope teachers will make good use of them. The Russian recordings made by Russian children in the Soviet middle school in Berlin-Karlshorst are delightful, but teachers do not seem to find time to make full use of them.

Our children have to learn a great deal in our primary schools, but general conditions — accomodation, teaching materials and so on — have improved so much and our teachers go to so much trouble that I think most older children would still agree with little Sara that "school is nice".

Biggest-Ever Trade Pact

Soviet Materials for E. German Works

One of the biggest trade agreements ever concluded was signed in East Berlin on September 27th by representatives of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic.

The agreement, to cover the years 1958, 1959 and 1960, envisages an exchange of goods between the two countries totalling a value of 20,000 million rubles — about 5,000 million dollars at the official rate of exchange. Trade between the two countries in past years has already been at a high level — in 1955 the two countries exchanged goods valued at 3,700 million rubles, but the new agreement will bring a further huge increase.

The agreement, signed by Deputy Prime Minister Heinrich Rau for the German Democratic Republic and Deputy Foreign Trade Minister P. N. Kumykin for the Soviet Union, also granted important long term credits to the German Democratic Republic. One credit consisted of 300 million rubles worth of convertible currency, and the other of 400 million rubles worth of goods. Both credits are repayable in a five year period between 1961 and 1966, and the rate of interest is only two percent.

Under the main agreement the Soviet Union will supply East Germany with huge quantities of raw materials including coal, iron ore, rolled steel, non-ferrous metals, oil, wood, wool, cotton, grain and foodstuffs. The German Democratic Republic will supply machines, ships and chemicals.

Economic experts in Berlin stressed the great importance of the trade agreement for the further development of the economy of the German Democratic Republic. Owing to the artificial division of Germany, East Germany has a highly developed industry, but is notably lacking in raw materials, particularly hard coal and iron. The great new shipments of precisely these materials in the coming three years will make possible hard long term planning in the engineering industry, and should ensure the optimum use of East Germany's industrial capacity and skilled manpower. In return, East Germany will be in a position to supply the Soviet Union with a steady stream of machines of all types for the further industrialisation of the Soviet Union.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Subject of the notebook this week once again, as so often in the past, is the old old story of re-nazification in West Germany. It is not a pleasant story, but it is one that I think must be told time and time again.

Let us start with the the new West German Parliament, elected on September 15th. We had hoped to bring you in this number a "Who's Who" of some of the more notorious members of the new parliament, but research into the biographies of the hard-faced men who did well out of the war (and out of the subsequent peace too) has taken longer than anticipated, so a full listing will have to wait.

Introducing M. P.

However, I should like to present this week one of the new members sent to parliament in an election which the "New York Times" described on September 17th as "a resounding victory for the entire West, for Europe, for the North atlantic alliance and for United States policy in Europe." This new "democratic parliamentarian" is a 53-year-old lawyer named Dr. Fritz Kempfler.

You probably will not be surprised to learn that Dr Kempfler was a nazi: that is no cause for astonishment, since dozens of the Christian Democratic parliamentarians were members of the nazi party. But he was not just any old member of Hitler's party: if you care to look up old magazine files for the year 1938 you may well find pictures of the opening of the annual Wagner Festival in the Bavarian town of Bayreuth, and there, posing proudly beside Hitler is Dr Kempfler in his smart black SS uniform, with his hand stretched out in the nazi salute.

For this new model democratic M. P. was a member of the NSDAP, the nazi party, from 1932 on: in July 1938 the nazi authorities named him as Lord Mayor of Bayreuth, and he was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the SS. He was making a good career, since he was only 33 at the time.

Temporary Halt

His career temporarily ended in 1945, when the first wave of American troops to reach Bayreuth removed him from his mayor's office and interned him as a dangerous leading nazi.

After three years internment he was back in circulation again; he soon built up a nice little lawyer's practice, helping in the rehabilitation of his old colleagues. But he was ambitious: he had ruled a town for the nazis, surely he could help rule the West German state for Adenauer. Now he has made it, and the same Americans who interned him as a dangerous nazi in 1945 are now welcoming his election, and the election of many scores like him, as "a resounding victory for United States policy in Europe".

If that is United States policy in Europe, you can have it.

Of course, Dr Kempfler is not in himself of any great importance. I have just presented him to you here as one of many, as one of Chancellor Adenauer's majority in the new West German parliament, as one of the people who will have a big voice in the next four years in deciding on the question of peace or war in Europe.

Anti-Semitism

Now let us turn to the allied question of anti-semitism in West Germany. Prominent members of the Evangelical Church in West Germany, many of whom themselves suffered under the nazis, are worried about the problem, so they decided to have a conference on the subject. The conference was held by the Evangelical Academy at the little West German town of Loccum on September 20th to 24th.

The most remarkable speech made at this conference was delivered by Dr Carl Christopher Schweizer, a leading member of the "Federal Centre for Fatherland Services", a semi-official propaganda agency subsidised by the West German Government. The fact that Dr Schweizer works for such an agency makes what he had to say even more convincing: "The great majority of the former members of the nazi party in West Germany voted for the Christian Democrats in the general elections" he stated. "I have had long talks with such people, and they regard Adenauer's government just as a provisorium. They did not conceal the fact that when things go well they intend to take over the reins once again."

After this disclosure, Dr Schweizer gave a number of hitherto unpublished figures from public opinion polls conducted in West Germany. One of these polls had shown that 39 per cent of the West German population could be described as anti-Semitic, and another 29 per cent as partially anti-Semitic.

In another poll a cross-section of the population had been asked whether they believed that the nazis had murdered about five million Jews. 37 per cent replied that they considered this figure greatly exaggerated; another 26 per cent said it was rather exaggerated, and only 25 per cent thought it was roughly accurate.

In a third public opinion poll, people were asked what action they would take if a new nazi party were to be founded.

Support Nazis

13 per cent said they would welcome this development and give the new party active support; 20 per cent would welcome the party but not work actively for it; 29 per cent said they would be neutral; and only 25 per cent stated that they would actively oppose such a new party.

Significantly Dr Schweizer, in announcing these figures, asked his audience to treat them as "confidential" and not to publish them.

The figures made a big impact on the audience, composed of Protestant clergy and laymen and representatives of various Jewish organisations. Dr Eva Reichmann of London, commented "The figures are simply devastating. Those of us who watch from abroad had believed that there was an improvement in Germany, but these figures have crushed us."

"The Times"

To brighten up the end of the page, let us turn to the great grey "Times" of London. I must admit that I have a sneaking admiration for the "Times", for its serried and serious columns often disgorge nuggets if carefully studied.

On October 5th, for instance, a news dispatch from San Marino contained one of the classic understatements of all time: "San Marino is not one of the leading atomic powers . . ."

And on the same page of the same issue, the West German correspondent of the newspaper, writing of the 1st Grenadier Division of the West German Wehrmacht, came up with this beautiful poker-faced jab: "Their commander, Major-General Reichtel, has spent 42 years in service. His record would be too embarrassing for his new allies to recount in detail."

As Richard Cobden said in 1850: "I believe it has been said that one copy of The Times contains more useful information than the whole of the historical works of Thucydides."

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